

THE PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA T/S
USERS GROUP
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2

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TREASURER: ROD GOWEN
PR OFFICER: BOB EVANS
LIBRARIAN: LAURA GOWEN

MEETINGS

Our February meeting will be held:

on: THURSDAY, FEB. 7th
at: 7:30 P. M.
in: COMMUNITY ROOM
FAR WEST FED SAVINGS
O C SHOPPING CENTER

There will be a short business meeting followed by Q & A time. We will then break up to look at displays and talk to others.

The A & J Microdrive will be demonstrated again.

The new EPROM Cartridges from GESSO PRODUCTS will be there for you to see.

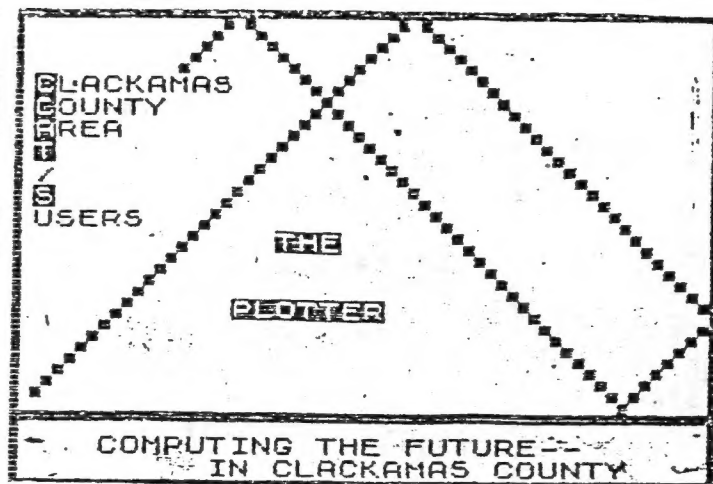
Our new EPROMMER EPROM programmer has arrived, and, if we get the cable in time, we will try to demo the unit in action.

Dennis Jurries has converted his color tv to a color Monitor and you can see it in operation.

THERE IS ALWAYS A LOT TO SEE AND DO. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OF YOU THERE****

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-IN THIS ISSUE-
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MICRODRIVE 2000
Dennis Jurries



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!!*WANTED*!!

YOU ARE WANTED BY THESE PEOPLE
To attend our next meeting

These are your officers, from left to right:
VINCE LYON- V-CHAIRMAN/SEC.
LAURA GOWEN- LIBRARIAN
BOB EVANS- PR OFFICER
ROD GOWEN- TREAS/NL EDITOR
DICK WAGNER- CHAIRMAN

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BITS and BYTES

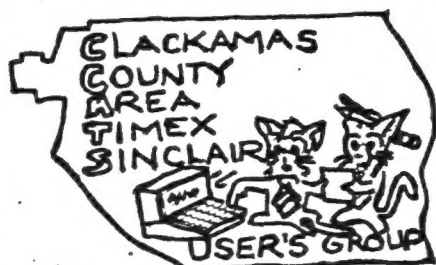
DISK DRIVE NEWS- We have been in contact with those supposedly in the know, and we have found that it will be at least three to four weeks before either the AERCO or the RAMEX I/F will be ready for us to order. We will keep you posted.

CARTRIDGE RAG- We have seen and tried the new cartridges from GESSO PRODUCTS. The three that were tested included: MAPLELEAF RAG, A FULL-FEATURE CALCULATOR AND A VERSION OF WP32 WORD PROCESSOR. We think that they are great! Watch for the upcoming review of these items.

128K MICRODRIVE?- Yes! 128K per wafer on a microdrive! We have heard of someone of the East coast working on converting an English wafer drive originally for the Spectrum, to operate on the 2068 without changing the ROM. He is currently working on the interface. It will be a dual drive system and will sell for about \$200.00!!! We can hope.

EPPROMMER?- We finally received the eprom programmer that we ordered. We also sent it right back. It seems that they neglected to tell us a few important details. Such as, you have to be an expert programmer, you have to buy a \$27 cable, you have to pay \$15 for the software to use it on all TS computers, and that you have to furnish two outside power supplies. Ends up costing almost \$200.00. We thought it was too much. But do not despair yet, as GESSO PRODUCTS is going to market two types of programmers in the near future. We will hold off till then. We have high regard for his work.

DISSASSEMBLED ROMS- Bob Orrfelt, of GESSO PRODUCTS, has been busy with Cartridges (see above) and EPROM PROGRAMMERS, but is still trying to get his new book out by the end of January. It is a new manual for us that will have in it a complete disassembly of both the Spectrum and the 2068 ROMs. One has been reserved for us. I hope it's worth waiting for.



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SECRETARY'S

SECRETS?

We said good-bye with thanks to the old officers and hello with hope to the new.

New "Volunteer" positions were announced. Bob Evans is now our Official Host, Bob Cole our Equipment/Program Demonstration Co/Ordinator and Dennis Jurries our Show/Display Chairman.

We discussed the Eprom Programmer which has been ordered but not yet received, and the Okidata write-in program.

Dick Wagner, our new Chairman outlined some of our basic goals for 1985 and extended a special thanks to the newsletter staff for their continued improvement.

Discussion was opened on the possibility of starting our own BBS, if funds can be located.

The business meeting was ended so that we could view the toys (including the Stringy Floppies) and programs on display.

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SPECIAL OFFER

To any members who are interested in renting a beach house in Lincoln City this special offer is presented. One beach house on the beach in Lincoln City, sleeps up to 8 people, two level with garage and fire place, \$35 normal price for two with \$5 each for extra people, User Group discount 20%, now \$28/\$4. Contact Dennis Regan, PO. Box 670, Lincoln City, OR 97367, phone 994-9111.

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LOST & FOUND

Found one brownish man's scarf at last User Group meeting. Contact Dennis Jurries 655-9670

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## HARDWARE REVIEW

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A&J Micro Drive

by Dennis Jurries

After several attempts at writing this review having been interrupted by almost every illness except the plague, I have finally made it.

The micro drive is a great improvement over the tape recorder. Depending upon where the drive has stopped on the wafer, loading and saving times are cut by 1/2 to 2/3. The method of data storage is still serial, that is programs are stored one after the other. Up to 9 programs can be stored on any wafer depending upon the wafer length and the program length. Programs can be changed as long as the length of the program is the same and saved back in the same position as it was originally. I found the reliability of the save to be 100% every time.

The system comes as an interface, a drive, 5 wafers of various lengths, a wafer storage folder (business card holder), and an instruction manual. The manual doesn't seem necessary because the operating instructions are so simple.

```
SAVE "@#,program name"
SAVE "@#,program name"LINE #
SAVE "@#,pn"DATA var()
SAVE "@#,pn"DATA var#()
SAVE "@#,pn"CODE m,n
SAVE "@#,pn"SCREEN#
LOAD "@pn"
VERIFY "@pn"
MERGE "@pn"
```

within "" means the number of the program on the wafer 1-9.
pn = program name.

The program name must be 7 characters or less. One problem occurred using this system. In Tasword II if you save your text the program asks you for the name of your text so that the text can have a name to be stored under. The name is input to a string variable:

```
SAVE A# CODE m,n
```

~~~~~

On wafer this would be:

```
SAVE "@#,A#"CODE m,n
```

Which doesn't work. So, you must break Tasword II at this point and type SAVE "@#,program name"CODE m,n to save the text on wafer.

The wafers themselves are marvels. They are small and compact and have a sliding dust cover to protect them that must be closed in order to be able to insert them into the drive.

I do not know enough about disk drives to compare the micro drive to them but from what I have heard the micro drive is slower than some and faster than others. All in all if you have had tape recorder problems or you just wish for something better than this is one way you should consider.

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FROM THE  
EDITOR'S DESK-

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Here I am again, your "computer conscience". I am normally a quiet guy, but when I am upset, I must speak up. I am upset at the apathy within our little group. We could do a lot for all of our members as well as others who are interested in the TS line of computers. We formed CCAT/S to do just that. We appreciate any help that we can get. Either in the form of reviews, articles, or programs, or in other ways, such as with shows etc. GIVE US AND YOURSELF A BOOST!

As you can see by our current membership list on page 4, we seem to have lost quite a few members. I say "seem to have" because they may have just forgotten to renew. We did remind everyone in plenty of time. If the missing people still want to enjoy the benefits of CCAT/S, they can renew at the meeting or any other time just by sending the fee to the address on the back of this newsletter. We are getting new people all the time. We hate to lose anyone but sometimes we have to move or leave the area, and in those cases many of our members can still get the PLOTTER by subscribing.

We hate to keep singing the same song, but we want everyone to be a bit more involved in the group that we all belong to. That way we all gain. Sharing is what we are all about.

WE CARE---LET'S SHARE\*\*\*

=====

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# ZX/TS P and R

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Here we are again, with more for you. More routines, and more programs

We want to ask a favor here. We need some good programs for the 2068 to run in this column. If you have a favorite public domain program, just send it along to THE PLOTTER. Maybe someone else will also enjoy it.

Our routine comes from our new Chairman, Dick Wagner. All about borders.

Our 1000 program again comes from Compuserve. We hope that you enjoy....

BORDERS ON THE 1000 & 2068
Dick Wagner

Enhance your program menu with borders. To eliminate a lot of calculating for location, select the top border PRINT AT as 2 line numbers less than your menu top line and the bottom border 2 lines lower than the menu last line. The side borders may conveniently be at 1 & 30, or if you need the space, 0 & 31

Use the subroutine example for a menu format from lines 3 to 8.

```
For the 2068:
1000 FOR N=1 TO 30
1010 PRINT AT 1,N; CHR$ 131:
PRINT AT 10,N; CHR$ 140
1020 NEXT N
1030 FOR N=1 TO 10
1040 PRINT AT N,1; CHR$ 133:
PRINT AT N, 30; CHR$ 138
1050 NEXT N
```

If you are more comfortable using characters look up the character codes on page 242, 3 of the manual and substitute, bracketing the character in quotes. The particular line combination was selected so corners would fill in properly.

For the 1000:
Change the CHR\$ as follows-131 to 3; 140 to 131; 138 to 5. Where : is use in lines 1010 and 1040 just break the lines and start with new line numbers 1015 and 1045.

Use the POWER
within your reach!



```
10 PRINT TAB 8;"DOCTOR Z"
15 PRINT
20 PRINT
25 PRINT "HELLO, I AM YOUR COM
PUTHERAPIST INPUT YOUR NAME AND
SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR-SELF"
30 INPUT A$
35 PRINT "WHAT IS YOUR NAME?"
40 INPUT B$
42 PRINT "HOW ARE YOU?"
44 INPUT A$
46 CLS
50 LET C=0
55 LET U=0
60 LET V=0
62 GOTO 75
65 INPUT A$
68 PRINT A$
70 IF C=9 THEN GOTO 1420
75 LET Z=INT (RND*9)+1
80 IF U=Z THEN GOTO 75
90 LET U=Z
95 IF C>=0 THEN GOTO Z*100
100 PRINT "INTERESTING, TELL ME
MORE."
150 GOTO 1390
200 PRINT "HAVE YOU FELT THIS W
AY LONG?"
250 GOTO 1390
300 PRINT "WHY ARE YOU HERE?"
350 GOTO 1390
400 PRINT "WHY DO YOU FEEL THIS
WAY?"
450 GOTO 1390
500 PRINT "ARE YOU COMFORTABLE
WITH THIS?"
550 GOTO 1390
600 PRINT "DO YOU THINK THIS IS
NORMAL?"
650 GOTO 1390
700 PRINT "IS IT ALWAYS THIS WA
Y?"
750 GOTO 1390
800 PRINT "DO YOUR FRIENDS ACCE
PT THIS?"
850 GOTO 1390
900 PRINT "DID YOU TALK TO ANYO
NE ON THIS?"
1390 LET C=C+1
1400 GOTO 65
1420 CLS
1430 PRINT "I THINK YOU ARE DOIN
G GREAT IN SOLVING YOUR PROBLEM
S, ";B$
1440 PRINT
1445 PRINT
1450 PRINT "WOULD YOU LIKE TO TA
LK AGAIN? ";B$
1455 INPUT C$
1460 IF C$="YES" THEN GOTO 46
1465 PRINT
1470 PRINT "ALL RIGHT THEN."
1475 PRINT "I HAVE ENJOYED TALKI
NG WITH YOU"
1500 PRINT "HAVE A NICE DAY"
```

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## ARTICLE

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CORRECTING GRAPHICS ON PRINTERS Dick Wagner

Those members who have recently purchased a printer may be dismayed to learn that circles may print egg shaped. There is no correction for the 2068 command CIRCLE but use a formula and you can solve the problem. Use this formula to generate a controlled circle on the 2068

```
10FOR I=0 TO 2*PI STEP PI/200
20PLOT 125+80*COS I, 80+80*SIN I
30NEXT I
```

On my 2040 printer the image is 63 mm high x 51 mm wide. This makes a ratio of 1.24 so COS needs to be 1.24 times wider. Just change to 1.24*80*COS I to print a practically true circle. You could also use 80/1.24*SIN and have 51 mm circle.

A similar problem may exist with the TV screen and can be corrected the same way. My TV has an image 15% higher than wide.

AUTO-RUN PROGRAMS DICK WAGNER

Auto-run programs can be stopped after LOADING by using this procedure. ENTER MERGE "" (only on 2068 computer) and then ENTER LOAD "". You won't see LOAD "" but it is there. Start your recorder and stop on OK. On ENTER the LISTING will come up. It will also be easier to BREAK a running program.

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Not until a program has been in production for at least six months will the most harmful error be discovered.

One good reason that computers can do more work than people is that they never have to stop and answer the telephone.

BOOK REVIEW

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Dick Wagner

The Timex/Sinclair User's Encyclopedia  
Authors Gary Philips and James C Marsh  
Publishers-The Book Company  
219 pages 8 1/2 / 11 soft back.

Authors cover from A to Z, the elements of the Sinclair system such as codes, commands, etc. Many programs are named, described, and suppliers are listed. I have not heard of many of the programs and some may be out of print.

Many computer terms common to the industry are well described. It is indeed an education to work thru sections of the book.

There are some conversions to Sinclair Basic. An example-

FREE will return the number of bytes in memory not being used by Basic. This statement is not available to T/8 computers. Substitute:

```
10LET RAMTOP=PEEK 16388+256*
PEEK 16389
20LET ELINE=PEEK 16404+256*
PEEK 16405
30LET FREE=RAMTOP-ELINE
40PRINT FREE
```

RAMTOP is described in the R chapter.

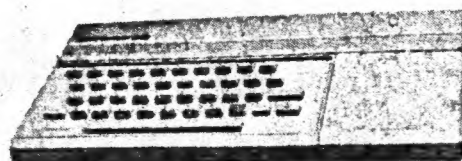
E\_Line is described in the E chapter as the beginning of workspace.

NOTE: The 2068 has FREE.

While considerable information is provided on disk drives, I could find nothing on Micro Drives.

The book ends with a list of vendors/addresses, including some from Canada and England-a help for overseas mailing.

While the book cover and preface list the 2068 computer as covered in the text, the authors admit that data was not available at the time of going to press.



2222222222222222

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Because of the possibility of fraud and/or poor quality service and products, we are from time to time, going to name names of people and companies with whom, through personal experiences or those of other members of our group, have proven themselves not to be dealt with. This is the one way we have of fighting back. Hit them in the pocketbook. I

If any of our readers have had a bad time with a vendor, let us know about it. If it is legit and documented, we will print it to save others the same trouble in the future.

The culprit this month:

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